

Creation Care

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Earthrise

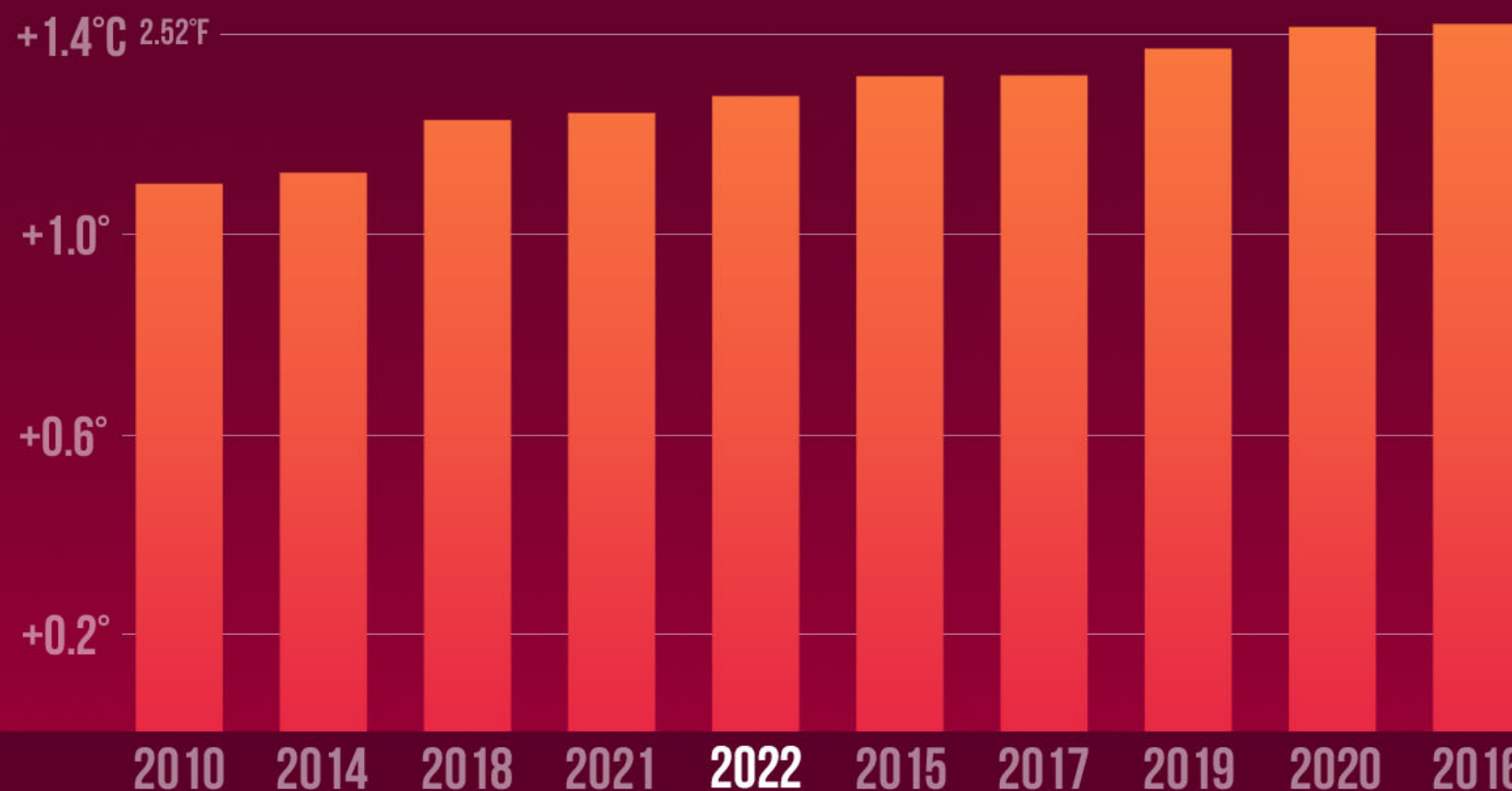
Photo by James Anders
Apollo 8 December 24, 1968



“Within a few short centuries, we are returning to the air a significant part of the carbon that was slowly extracted by plants and buried in the sediments during half a billion years.”

–Science Advisory Committee to the President, 1965

10 HOTTEST GLOBAL YEARS ON RECORD

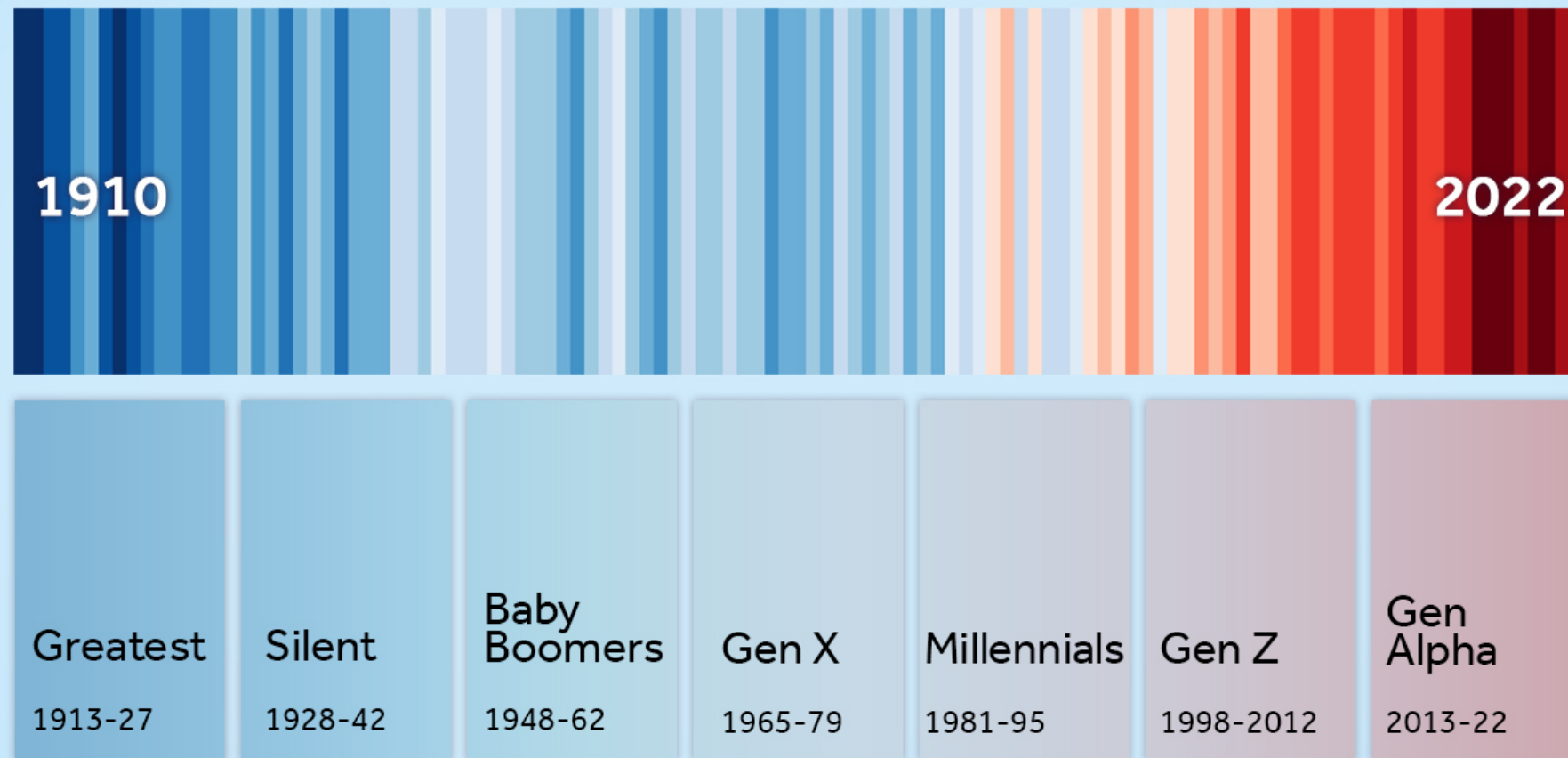


Source: NASA GISS & NOAA NCEI global temperature anomalies averaged and adjusted to early industrial baseline (1881-1910). Data as of 1/12/2023.

CLIMATE  CENTRAL

BORN IN A WARMING WORLD

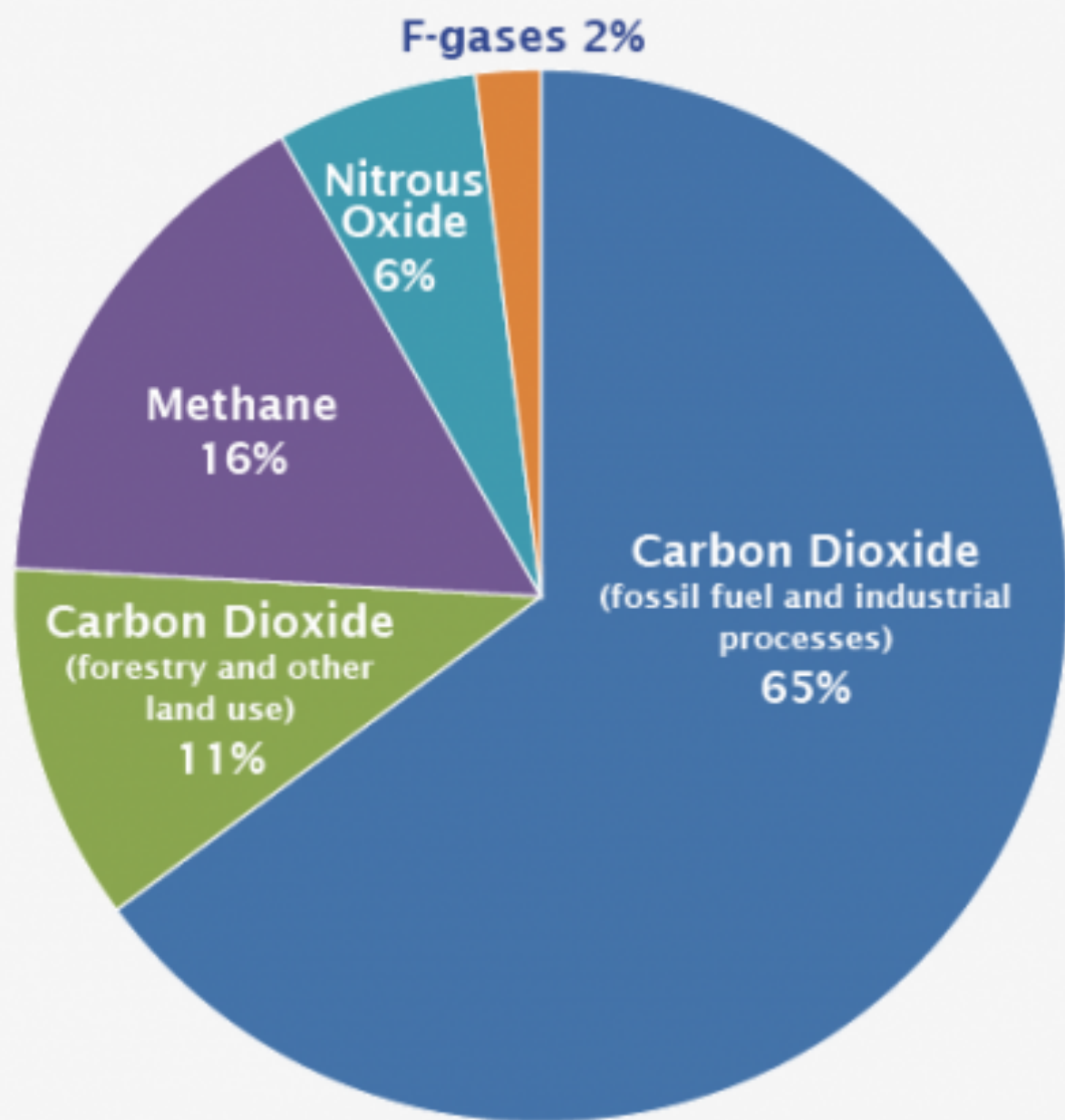
GLOBAL WARMING WHEN EACH GENERATION BEGINS



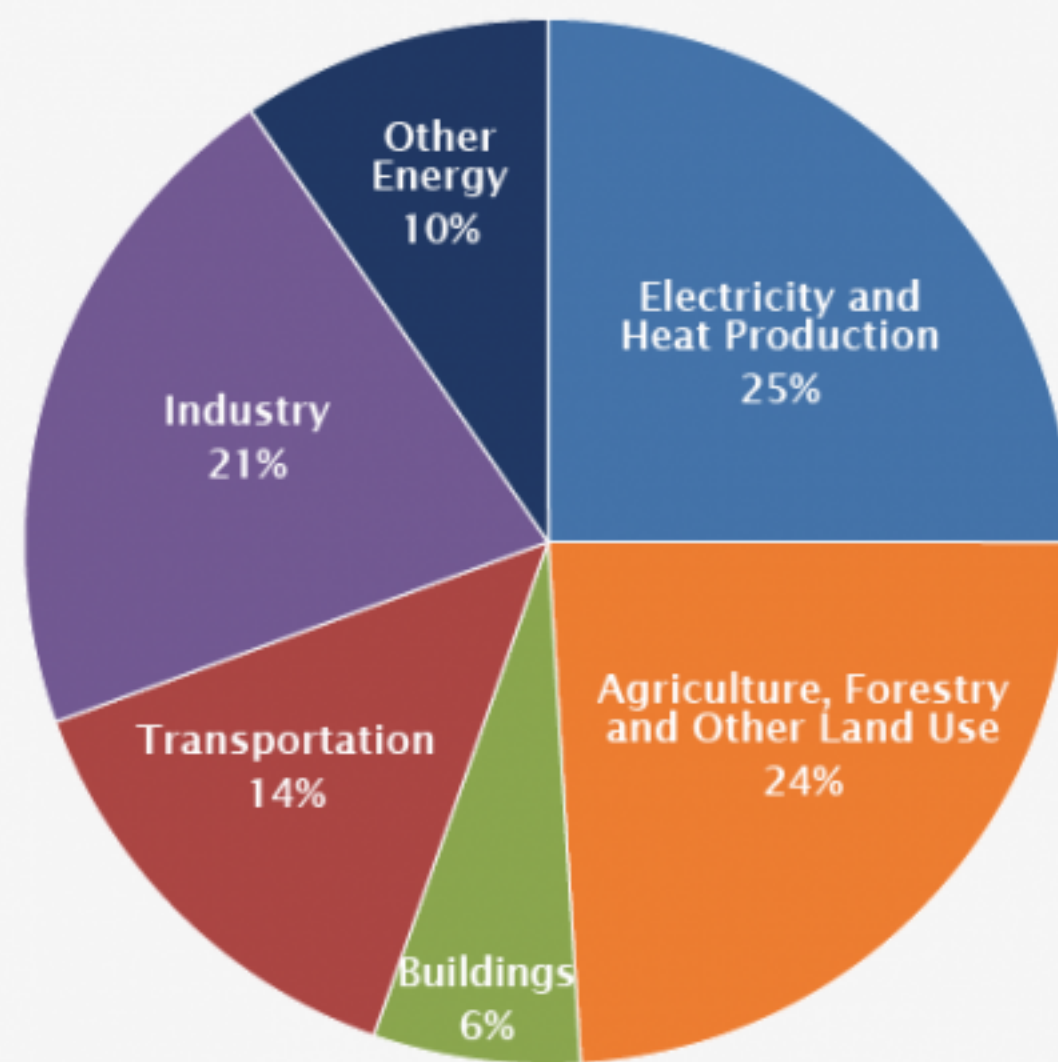
Based on Ed Hawkins "Warming Stripes." 1971-2000 baseline.
Data Source: UK Met Office

CLIMATE  CENTRAL

Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Gas



Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector





“Climate change is not the story of our time. Climate change is a *subset* of the story of our time, which is that we are coming of age on a finite planet and only just now recognizing that it is finite. So how we manage infinite aspirations of a species that’s been on this explosive trajectory — not just of population growth but of consumptive appetite — how can we make a transition to a sort of stabilized and still prosperous relationship with the Earth and each other is the story of our time.”

–*Andrew Revkin; New York Times, Dec 1, 2008*



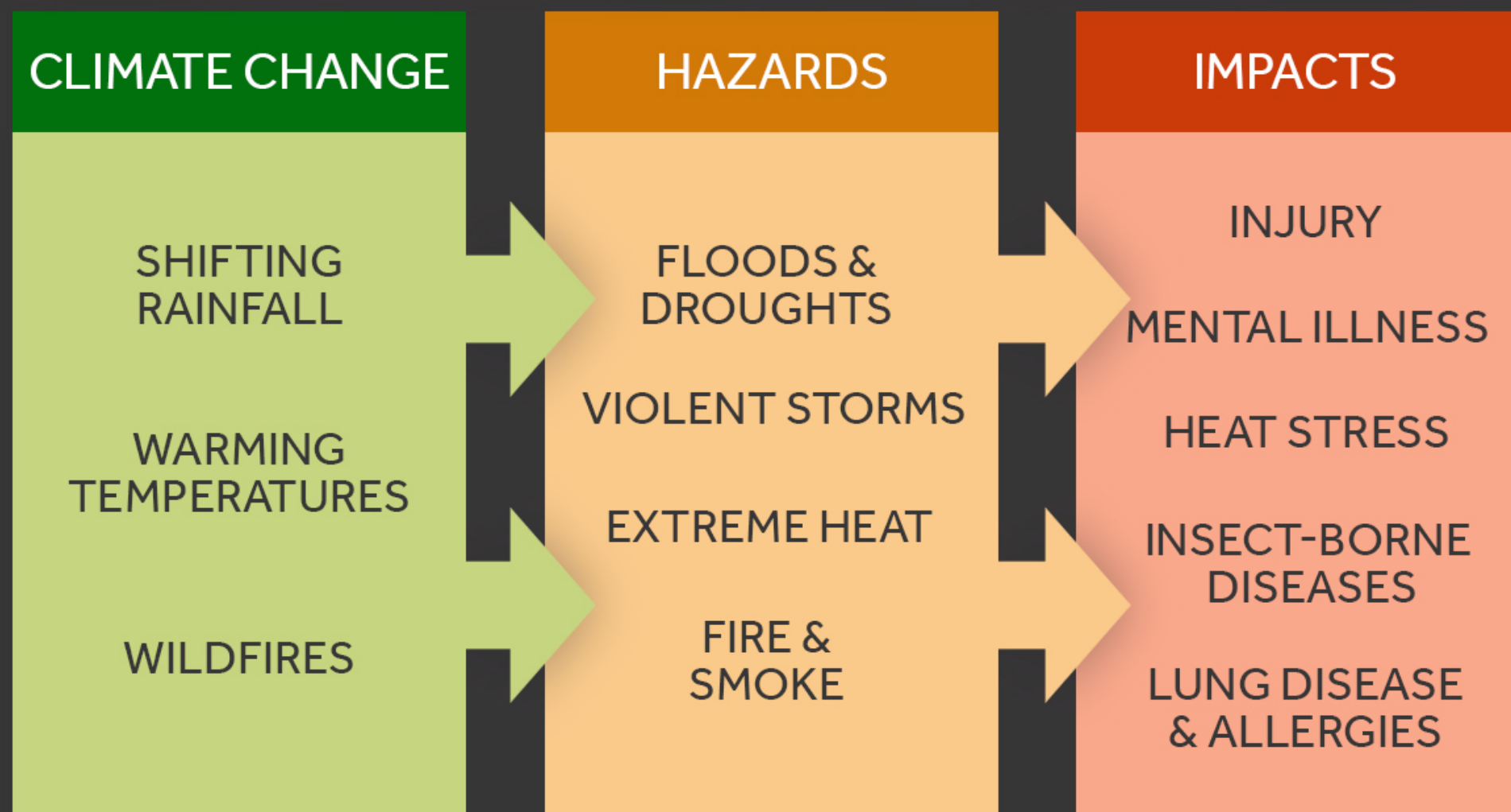


India 2019

“And it’s a story about conflict. It’s a story about the fact that there are a billion teenagers on planet earth right now. A hundred thirty years ago there were only a billion people altogether — grandparents, kids. Now there are a billion teenagers and they could just as easily become child soldiers and drug dealers as innovators and the owners of small companies in favelas in Brazil. And little tweaks in their prospects, a little bit of education, a little bit of opportunity, a micro loan or something, something that gets girls into schools, those things — that’s the story of our time. And climate change is like a symptom of the story of our time, meaning our energy choices right now come with a lot of emissions of greenhouse gases and if we don’t have a lot of new [choices] we’re going to have a lot of warming.”

—Andrew Revkin; New York Times, Dec 1, 2008

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS HEALTH



CLIMATE  CENTRAL

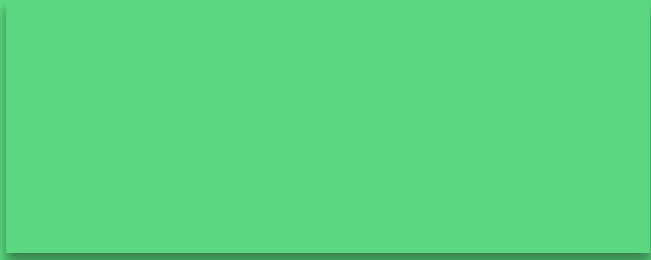


World Leaders talking about climate change

artist - Isaac Cordal
14

“Climate change presents our global family with the opportunity to embark on a path of spiritual renewal defined by deeper awareness and greater ecological action. Every act to protect and care for all beings connects us to one another, deepening the spiritual dimension of our lives. We must reflect on the true nature of our interrelationship to the Earth. It is not a resource for us to exploit at our will. It is a sacred inheritance and a precious home which we must protect.”

*–COP 22 Interfaith Climate Change
Statement, April 18, 2016*



YOU ONLY TALK ABOUT MOVING FORWARD
WITH THE SAME BAD IDEAS THAT GOT US
INTO THIS MESS. EVEN WHEN THE ONLY
SENSIBLE THING TO DO IS PULL THE
EMERGENCY BRAKE. YOU ARE NOT MATURE
ENOUGH TO TELL IT LIKE IT IS. EVEN THAT
BURDEN YOU LEAVE TO YOUR CHILDREN.

“Climate change involves outsourcing violence on such a vast scale—temporal outsourcing and geographical outsourcing. It’s the ultimate form of incremental violence as it is shredding our planet’s life-sustaining envelope. Climate change can be mitigated only through a commitment—an ethical, political and imaginative commitment—to safeguarding people and other life forms that are remote from us in time and space. Such a commitment requires that we deeply value life thirty, fifty, one hundred, one thousand years from now. Countering slow violence requires reimagining responsibility over longer time frames.”

–Rob Nixon; *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*

**“Let us wake up, humanity! We’re out of time...
Let’s come together and remain hopeful as we defend
and care for the blood of this Earth and of its spirits.”**

- Berta Cáceres. Acceptance speech, 2015 Goldman Prize



© Goldman Prize

Assassinated March 3, 2016

“Hope is hope against the evidence. Hope arises in a break with the past. There is a kind of cut and the past is let go of. There is a difference between simple expectation and hope...

I think that hope is a kind of birth-it doesn't come out of what went before, it comes out in spite of what went before. Abruptly there's a break and there's an upsurge of hope, something turned toward the future.”

—*Alphonso Lingis* - quoted by Solnit



Apocalyptic Imagination: New Songs for Hope

We should never forget that healthy soil equals healthy food, equals healthy people, equals healthy ecosystems and equals a healthy planet. That is the mantra we must have into the final Food Systems Summit.

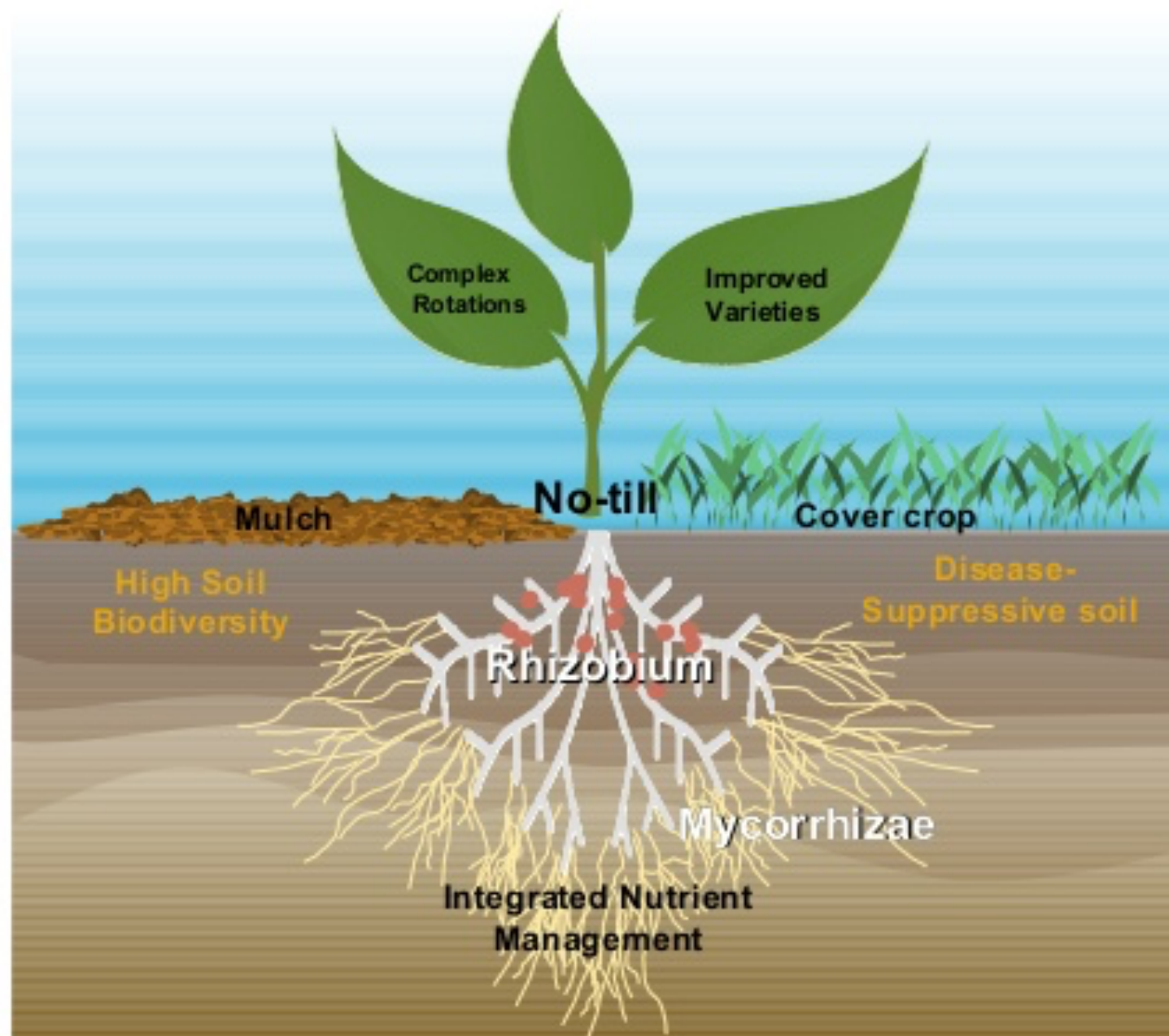
Dr. Rattan LAL



Rhizosphere (root/soil interface) is the only place that we know in the Universe which has the Divine power to resurrect Death into Life - Rattan Lal, April 2023



Conservation Agriculture System



“The future is dark, with a darkness as much of the womb as
of the grave.”

—Rebecca Solnit

Toward an Intersectional Ecological Theology

- 1) *Begins in authentic relationship with our place*
- 2) *Understands the Earth as the context for thriving of all life*
- 3) *Considers impacts on People and Communities when speaking of politics, econo*
- 4) *mics, ethics, faith stances, even when speaking of God*
- 5) *Builds community for all living beings*
- 6) *Worship, Practice and Proclamation connecting to places, people, and all creatures*
- 7) *Knowing deepens Responsibility*
- 8) *Wisdom Grounded in Humility*
- 9) *Be open to our own ignorance - can we be secure in our not knowing*
- 10) *Religious understanding demanding purity and unity ignore the diversity of ways of knowing and living into Holy Mystery*
- 11) *Intersectional theologies seeking authentic commitment thriving of all marginalized communities*



Practices Seeking Enough

- ❖ Gratitude
- ❖ Reverence
- ❖ Hospitality
- ❖ Wisdom
- ❖ Awe
- ❖ Creatures in Relation



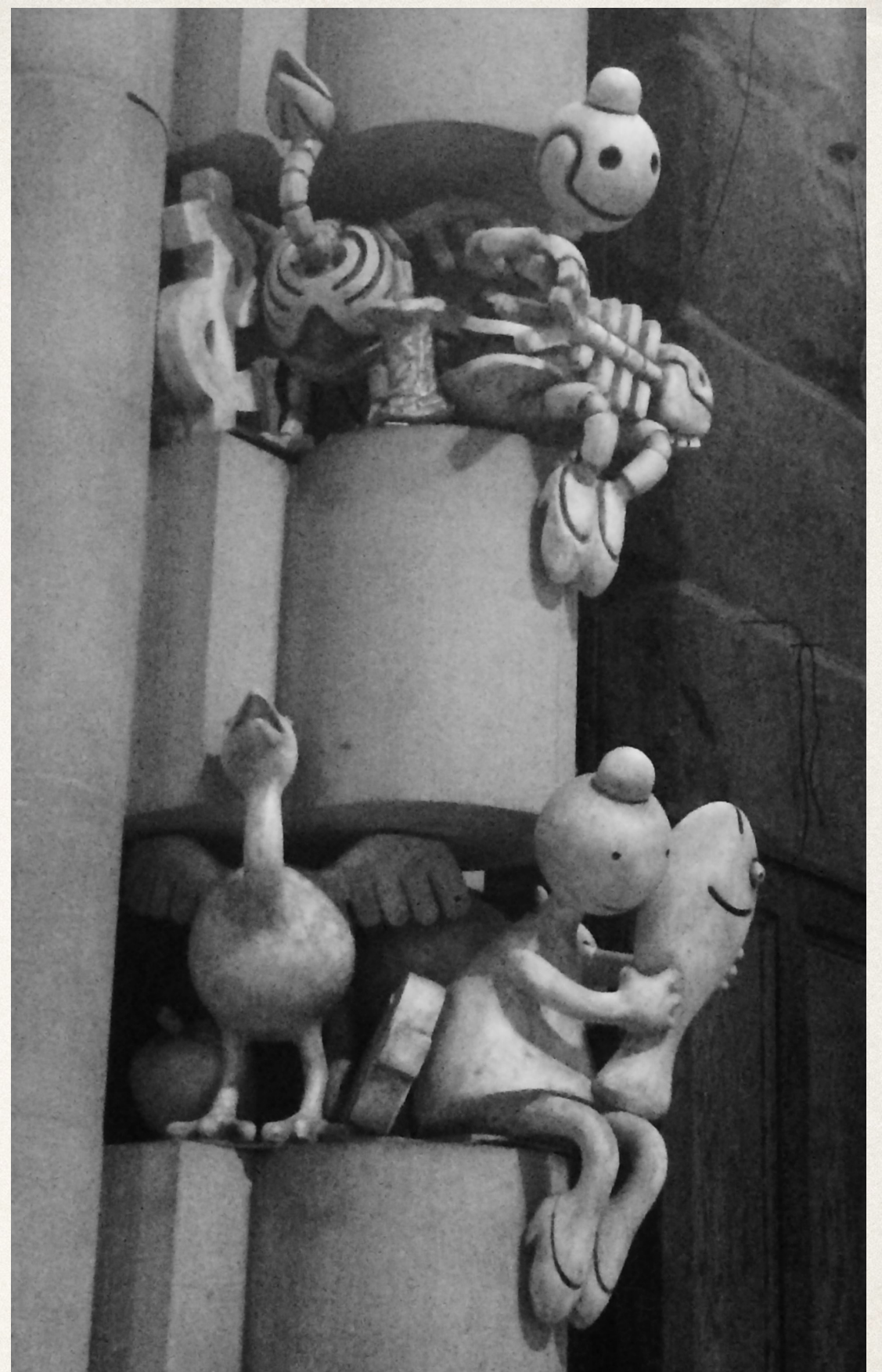
Openings for Faith Communities to Construct Space for Life

- Food Advocacy- sovereignty, soils, food dollar, best food for all people
- Peace/anti war advocacy
- Child advocacy
- Immigration/Climate Refugees
- Community health
- Mental health
- Anti-Poverty
- Antiracist
- Celebrating Diversity in all ways



Practices Challenging Comfort

- ❖ Build local resilience / community
- ❖ Reduce Consumption
- ❖ Shift Energy Sources
- ❖ Know your Farmer
- ❖ Limit Meat consumption
- ❖ Limit Driving
- ❖ Stop Using Plastic



Practices for the End of Necrophilic Cultures

- ❖ Construct Theologies for Sustained Resistance
- ❖ Subvert Neoliberalism
- ❖ Reshape Economies
- ❖ Subvert Privilege
- ❖ Seek Abundance in a World defined by Scarcity and Greed



“Now therefore, be it resolved, that as a global church community, we call on our members to reduce human-related outputs of greenhouse gases;

Be it further resolved, that members should make an effort to learn about human production and release of greenhouse gases and evaluate their own lifestyles to identify areas where reductions in production and release of greenhouse gases can be made. There are many informative resources for learning how one can reduce his/her greenhouse-gas impact;

Be it further resolved, that members should also work to make their own congregations more aware of the issue of global warming and create policies and practices which reduce greenhouse gas emissions from congregational infrastructure (church buildings, parsonages, vehicles, etc.);

Be it further resolved, that members call on the nations of the world to require reductions in greenhouse emissions using the most efficient and cost-effective mechanisms;

Finally, be it resolved, that members should also attempt to educate others outside their church communities on the need to take action on this issue.”

–UMC Book of Resolutions, adopted 2009

